

Mehta, B. B.

December

19A

71. 2009 085 02397


A. + 5 + 5. M

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Dorothy McKain

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/artistmlinc>



LINCOLN
NATIONAL
SALES CORPORATION
OF KENTUCKY

SUITE 302 / 1025 DOVE RUN ROAD
LEXINGTON / KENTUCKY / 40502
(606) 269-6336 / Res. 272-5161

SAMUEL BLEDSON, CLU
DISTRICT MANAGER

October 1, 1976

Dr. Mark Neely
Lincoln National Life Foundation
1301 S. Harrison Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Dear Dr. Neely:

I just met a lady who has done a painting of Abe Lincoln that I think is rather good. I thought you might be interested in acquiring one of the signed and numbered prints for the Lincoln Foundation museum. I am enclosing a small print of the painting. The prints cost \$25.00.

Please let me know if you are interested in acquiring a copy.

Sincerely,

Sam Bledsoe, C.L.U.

SB:ln



ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN PRAYER

© 1976 Dorothy McKain





ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN PRAYER

by

Dorothy McKain

"Abraham Lincoln In Prayer" is an attempt to catch a glimpse of the spirit of the Great Emancipator. Of course, brush, oil, and canvas could never be combined in a way that would adequately accomplish that. The spirit of a great man is not symbolized so easily. We need to be reminded, however inadequate those reminders be, that greatness, freedom, equality, and liberty are to be found

only in the energy of the spirit. It is the artist's conviction that herein lies Lincoln's greatness—his spirit, which in turn found its energy from a well-spring of profound faith in the Creator.

The Bible was an early influence in Lincoln's life. He heard it taught by his mother, heard it preached at the Baptist Meeting House, and it was the reading text used in his log-cabin school because there were no other readers or grammars available. That influence pervaded his life and his work. His speeches and conversation were sprinkled with Biblical quotations and he used the Bible regularly to make a point or to clarify an issue.

He was once presented a Bible inscribed: "To Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, the Friend of Universal Freedom, from the Loyal Colored People of Baltimore, as a token of respect and gratitude. Baltimore, 4th July 1864." On that occasion he is quoted as saying, "In regard to this Great Book I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to men. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and here-after, are to be found portrayed in it. To you I return my most sincere thanks for the elegant copy of the Great Book of God which you present."

His faith gave birth to great wisdom and uncommon "common sense," resulting in a unique ability to cut through to the center of issues. The issue of equality for instance, thunders in the keynote phrase of our Declaration of Independence—"All men are created equal." Lincoln could fully endorse this phrase, understanding as he did that this could not mean equality in the temporal realm—where men form governments, wage wars, and buy and sell—for people are obviously varied in talents and gifts and physical makeup. Lincoln knew the truth of this great declaration—that each person is equal in the sight of God, regardless of race, sex or social status. Lincoln concluded, therefore, that the Declaration of Independence makes sense in a theological context but falls short of viability in any other.

His unique insight into the nature of equality coupled with strong convictions as to the true meaning and nature of liberty, forged an unbreakable spirit of truth and strength. In an address at Baltimore in the spring of 1864 he declared, "The world has never had a good definition of liberty. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor." He lived in the confidence that the values he held and fought for regarding every man's right to responsible freedom, would eventually win out because, he stated, "There is a just and righteous God in Heaven." Thus armed with these powerful weapons of spiritual conviction his battle cry was, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end, dare to do our duty, as we understand it."

Some men crumble under adversity. Great men grow stronger under it. Lincoln's one-time critic, Horace Greeley, said he had never seen anyone "... so constantly and visibly grow under the discipline of incessant cares, anxieties and trials."

What was Lincoln's secret? This painting suggests that it was because he was a man of prayer. So it was by his own admission. Toward the end of his life, with countless heavy burdens upon him, Lincoln confided to Noah Brooks, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go."

Abraham Lincoln also believed that prayer was a necessary source of strength for nations as well as men. Nine times he called the nation to fasting and prayer. The following, written in 1863, perhaps best expresses his conviction:

... it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with the assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

(Much of the above information was gleaned from the book, "Abraham Lincoln; Theologian of American Anguish," by Dr. Elton Trueblood. (Harper & Row.)

October 28, 1976

Mr. Sam Bledsoe, CLU
District Manager
Lincoln National Sales Corp. of Kentucky
Suite 302, 1025 Dove Run Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Dear Mr. Bledsoe:

Like all museum directors, I figure my budget fairly closely. In the case of modern print productions, I like to wait around a while in hopes someone will give us a copy for our files. There are so many Lincoln prints that I hate to think of paying as much as \$25 for the new ones.

We are awfully happy to have a record of this one and will establish a file in our "artists" drawer for Dorothy McKain, retaining the printed information and the small reproduction of the picture, if you don't mind.

Thanks a lot for thinking of us.

Yours truly,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/jn

October 22, 1937

Mr. Wm. H. Rector, CLE
Director, Bureau
Lincoln National Sales Corp., of Kentucky
1015 101, 1025 Dove Run Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Dear Mr. Rector:

After all recent directors, I believe you have fairly clearly
in the case of Robert Grant, production, I like to wait around
which in hopes someone will give us a copy for our files. There
are so many Lincoln prints that I hate to think of giving as much
as \$25 for the new ones.

We are willing to pay to have a record of this one and will
establish a file in our "Robert Grant" folder for future reference.
Returning the printed information and the small reproduction
of the picture, if you don't mind.

Thanks a lot for thinking of us.

Yours truly,

Wm. H. Rector, Jr.

Wm. H.

Atain, Es.

Es.

19A

Atain, Es.

